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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 07

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Ray Begaye

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE NAVAJO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
INDUSTRY AND TO APPROPRIATE ADEQUATE FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE
CONSTRUCTION AND TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE NAVAJO INDIAN
IRRIGATION PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry, a
farming and agribusiness enterprise of the Navajo Nation, was
formed in 1970 to develop the Navajo Nation's agricultural
economy on the lands of the Navajo Indian irrigation project;
and

WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry's
customers include major food processing companies throughout
the United States and internationally, and the "Navajo Pride"
brand has gained wide consumer acceptance as an excellent high-

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1 quality product; and

2 WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry is a
3 diverse, profitable business enterprise that directly
4 contributes more than fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000)
5 annually to the regional economy and employs one hundred ten
6 full-time employees and five hundred fifty seasonal employees
7 during peak operations; and

8 WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry's
9 future projects include continued crop diversification, food
10 processing plants, modern crop storage and processing
11 facilities to fulfill customer packaging preferences and peak
12 market demands; and

13 WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry uses
14 water provided by the Navajo Indian irrigation project to
15 cultivate seventy thousand acres and, since the project
16 completion schedule has been delayed by more than twenty years,
17 the industry cannot cultivate the remaining forty thousand
18 acres; and

19 WHEREAS, further completion delays of the irrigation
20 project will have negative impacts through lost economic
21 benefits to the Navajo agricultural products industry and the
22 Navajo Nation's plans for a self-sustaining agricultural-based
23 economy in northwestern New Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, the Navajo agricultural products industry board
25 of directors has requested assistance and support from the

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1 United States congress and the president of the United States
2 in securing adequate and sustained funding for the timely
3 completion of the Navajo Indian irrigation project and to
4 increase the appropriation for the bureau of Indian affairs
5 irrigation canal operation and maintenance, which the Navajo
6 agricultural products industry contracts from the bureau of
7 Indian affairs;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Navajo agricultural products
10 industry and the Navajo Nation's efforts to provide a self-
11 sustaining agricultural-based economy in northwestern New
12 Mexico be supported; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States congress be
14 requested to appropriate enough funds to complete construction
15 of the Navajo Indian irrigation project and to sustain
16 appropriations for the bureau of Indian affairs to operate and
17 maintain the project; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the state engineer, the New Mexico congressional
20 delegation, the president of the United States, the Navajo
21 agricultural products industry board of directors, the Navajo
22 Nation president and the Navajo Nation council.

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